ing the Eastern States, in implementing a number of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Many of such schemes have also components for development of irrigation and water management.

National Policy for Supply of Water from Irrigation Projects

3154. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press Reports from Maharashtra regarding change in policy in providing water from irrigation projects on 8 monthly basis rather than 12 monthly basis to facilitate more irrigation facilities to dry lands; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Gov policy as propose to form a national policy as regrads water suppiy available from irrigation projects and introduction of new methods like Drip Irrigation so that more land can be brought under production.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Reports indicate such changes in irrigation releases in Maharashtra. These are matters to be decided by the State Government in the circumstances of each case for the command areas of their irrigation projects. The draft National Water Policy covers, *inter alia*, the need for water conservation, water management and promotion of appropriate irrigation techniques. Under a Centrally sponsored scheme, Central assistance is being given to States for providing subsidy to small and marginal farmers for installation of water saving devices like drip irrigation system.

Import of Cows for Punjab

3155. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to import "Europe's Cows" to supplement the milk production with high yielding varieties in Punjab and other areas as the European cows are very cheap;

(b) whether Government are making any research on Cow breeding suitable for Indian conditions and if so, what is the result thereof; and

(c) whether Government have studied the proposal since cows imported previously did not given same yield in tropical climate?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The State Government of Punjab have proposed to import a limited number of Jersey and Holstein Friesian cows.

(b) The Technical Programme under the All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Cattle involved creation of breed combination involving exotic breed of cattle viz. Holstein Friesian, Brown Swiss, Jersey and 3 indigenous breeds viz. Haryana, Gir and Ongole and to study the genetic groups for growth, production, reproduction efficiency and economics of milk production. The project has been in operation for the last three plan periods. The various levels of exotic inheritance involving exotic-indigenous breeds *viz.* half and three fourth with two exotic breeds have been generated. Comparison of the half and three fourth breeds have revealed that the Friesian half breed is best genetic group with respect to overall performance irrespective of indigenous breed and location. The scope of the project during the 7th Plan has been reoriented/expanded.

(c) The exotic cows are proposed to be used for crossbreeding purpose.